

WI-108
George W. Humphreys House
Salisbury
Private

c. 1860-70, 1920

Moved to this site on East William Street from North Division Street around 1920, this two-story, center hall frame dwelling is historically known as the George W. Humphreys house. After the house was positioned on its new lot, a two-story rear wing was built and an Ionic columned portico was attached to the front entrance. Original architectural features date the building around 1860-70 during the ownership of George W.

Humphreys, who occupied the North Division Street lot between his purchase in 1854 and his death in 1889. Distinctive to the Civil War era structure is the second floor Palladian style window and its original staircase, which boasts a molded and ramped mahogany railing and a series of turned balusters that stretch from the first floor to the third.

Despite the 1860s architectural detailing of the house, it is clear from the chain of title research that the site was occupied as early as 1814 by Elijah Christopher. Identified as an acre-and-a-half of "Pemberton's Good Will," the house and lot sold at public auction in 1828 for \$550.

George W. Humphreys (1809-1889), son of Colonel Thomas Humphreys, entered into the family milling business following the purchase of the Wicomico falls mill complex by his brothers, Cathell and Humphrey in 1848. By the time of the 1860 United States census, George was designated as a miller with real estate valued at \$5,000. He is listed in the census with his wife Matilda and two daughters.

G. W. Humphreys is designated at this location on the 1877 Salisbury town map,

and he continued to occupy the property until his death in 1889. In his will, he left to his daughter, Malvina Seabrease, "*my house and lot in Salisbury where I now reside, in fee simple.*" She occupied the house until her death in 1914.

Her executors sold the house and lot to Walter R. Disharoon in 1920, and shortly thereafter, he relocated the Humphreys house to the lot on East William Street purchased the same year from Alice G. Leonard. Walter Disharoon sold the North Division Street lot to Pratt D. Phillips, Sr., who erected the two-and-a-half story Colonial Revival brick house that stands at 316 North Division. To the old Humphreys house, Walter Disharoon added a two-story rear wing and the Colonial Revival front portico.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: George W. Humphreys House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: ~~WI-238~~ WI-108

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Agricultural-Industrial Transition
1815-1870
4. Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-108

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification _____

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

date 3/31/98

street & number P. O. Box 5

telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover

state Maryland 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-108

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Moved to this site on East William Street from North Division Street around 1920, this two-story, center hall frame dwelling is historically known as the George W. Humphreys house. After the house was positioned on its new lot, a two-story rear wing was built and an Ionic columned portico was attached to the front entrance. Original architectural features date the building around 1860-70 during the ownership of George W. Humphreys, who occupied the North Division Street lot between his purchase in 1854¹ and his death in 1889.² Distinctive to the Civil War era structure is the second floor Palladian style window and its original staircase, which boasts a molded and ramped mahogany railing and a series of turned balusters that stretch from the first floor to the third.

Despite the 1860s architectural detailing of the house, it is clear from the chain of title research that the site was occupied as early as 1814 by Elijah Christopher.³ Identified as an acre-and-a-half of "Pemberton's Good Will," the house and lot sold at public auction in 1828 for \$550.⁴

George W. Humphreys (1809-1889), son of Colonel Thomas Humphreys, entered into the family milling business following the purchase of the Wicomico falls mill complex by his brothers, Cathell and Humphrey in 1848.⁵ By the time of the 1860 United States census, George was designated as a miller with real estate valued at \$5,000.⁶ He is listed in the census with his wife Matilda and two daughters.

¹ Somerset County Land Record, LW 3/265, 1 November 1854.

² Wicomico County Will Book, ELW 1/194, Proved 25 February 1889.

³ Somerset County Land Record, JP 2/117, 9 August 1814.

⁴ Somerset County Land Record, GH 4/368, 24 November 1828.

⁵ Somerset County Land Record, WP 4/36, 18 December 1848.

⁶ Eighth Census of the United States (1850) Somerset County, transcribed by John C. Barnes.

7. Description

Survey No. WI-108

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			c. 1920

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The George W. Humphreys house is located at 104 William Street in the center of the Newtown Historic District in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. Moved to its present location around 1920, the house faces north with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis. It was formerly located on the west side of North Division Street at the site of the Pratt D. Phillips, Sr. house at 316 North Division Street.

Estimated to date around 1860, the two-story, three-bay, center hall frame dwelling is supported on a raised brick foundation with a fully excavated cellar under the front section. The exterior is clad with vinyl siding. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story service wing that gives the entire house a tee-shape.

The north (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking nine-over-one replacement windows. The center entrance, featuring a six-panel door, is framed by a segmental arched fanlight and sidelights filled with leaded glass. The front door is sheltered by a Ionic columned portico. Pairs of fluted Ionic columns rise on raised brick platform to a classical entablature featuring a bold dentil molding. Fixed atop the portico roof is a balustrade anchored at the corners by squat posts. Stretching between the corner posts is a low, turned baluster railing. The flanking windows have a slight molding to the lintel and vinyl shutters to each side. The second floor is enhanced by a Palladian style window that provides access to the portico roof. Nine-over-one sash windows pierce the second floor to each side. The base of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice.

The east and west gable ends are essentially alike with nine-over-one sash windows on each floor, and a pointed arch sash lights the attic. The eaves are extended and enclosed. The base of the roof is finished with returns.

Attached to the back of the front block is a two-story, two-bay service wing. Chimneys have been removed from the structure.

The interior is finished with a mixture of third quarter of the nineteenth century woodwork with a mid twentieth century layer of Colonial Revival-inspired remodeling. The main block follows a center hall plan with a third quarter of the nineteenth century staircase rising in three flights to the attic. A boldly profiled mahogany newel post and a series of turned balusters support a molded mahogany handrail that ramps when it reaches the landing posts. The stringer is decorated with an applied scroll decoration. The right or west room is entered through an early twentieth century five-panel door framed by an ogee molded backband surround. A molded cornice has been added to the top of the surround. The east room on the left side of the hall has been remodeled with the addition of a paneled chimney breast across the inner partition containing a false fireplace.

The second floor is divided in the same fashion with a single bedroom to each side of the center hall. The mahogany stair railing continues to the third floor and encircles the attic stairwell. Early twentieth century five-panel doors are framed by ogee backband door surrounds.

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. WI-108

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic George W. Humphreys House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 104 East William Street not for publication

city, town Salisbury vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u>X</u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial <u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational <u>X</u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u>X</u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government <u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial <u> </u> transportation
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military <u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Jeanette Long

street & number 104 East William Street telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD 21801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 107, P. 815
 liber 644

street & number Wicomico County Clerk of Court folio 22

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

8.1 SIGNIFICANCE

George W. Humphreys House
104 East William Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland

George W. Humphreys is designated at this location on the 1877 Salisbury town map, and he continued to occupy the property until his death in 1889. In his will, he left to his daughter Malvina Seabrease, "my house and lot in Salisbury where I now reside, in fee simple."⁷ She resided in the house until her death in 1914.⁸

Her executors sold the house and lot to Walter R. Disharoon in 1920, and shortly thereafter he relocated the Humphreys house to the lot on East William Street purchased the same year from Alice G. Leonard.⁹ Walter Disharoon sold the Division Street lot to Pratt D. Phillips, Sr., who erected the two-and-a-half story Colonial Revival brick house that stands at 316 North Division Street.¹⁰ To the old Humphreys house, Walter Disharoon added a two-story rear wing and the Colonial Revival front portico.

The George W. Humphreys house is a distinctive and interesting blend of nineteenth and twentieth-century architectural styles. Therefore, it deserves listing in *Category A*.

⁷ Wicomico County Will Book, ELW 1/194, proved 25 February 1889.

⁸ Wicomico County Land Record, EAT 98/333, 15 December 1915.

⁹ Anne Kennerly Morris Clay, "The Jeanette Long House: A History," Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture.

¹⁰ Wicomico County Land Record, JCK 128/574, 17 November 1922.

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 George W. Humphreys House
 104 East William Street
 Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
 Chain of title for the former house site on North Division Street

Map 107, Parcel 949 and 948

1354/31

Brent R. Fox
 Dorinda M. Fox

to

Virginia R. Fortenberry

MSB 1123/649

Gary Crowell
 Helen B. Crowell

to

10/29/1987

Brent R. Fox
 Dorinda M. Fox

A J S 462/582

Pratt D. Phillips, Jr.

to

8/7/1981

Gary Crowell
 Helen B. Crowell

1. from Pratt D. Phillips, Jr. Executor of Dora Jones
 Phillips JWTS 719/228 9/18/1970
2. from Pratt D. Phillips, Jr. 9/18/1970, JWTS 719/228

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Page 2

George W. Humphreys House
104 East William Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

JWTS 276/447

Hannah Dawson

to

2/28/1946

Pratt D. Phillips
Dora Jones Phillips

JWTS 276/448

Dora Jones Phillips

to

2/28/1946

Hannah Dawson

1. from Pratt D. Phillips, 10/16/1925, JCK 140/413

2. from Pratt D. Phillips, 12/29/1938, IDT 213/597

3. from Margaret Webb Smith, 6/8/1945, JWTS 270/376

JCK 140/413

Pratt D. Phillips

to

10/16/1925

Dora Jones Phillips

Plat JCK 128/573

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Page 3

George W. Humphreys House
104 East William Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

JCK 128/574

Walter R. Disharoon
Lydia J. Disharoon

to

11/17/1922

Pratt D. Phillips

JCK 114/534

Cora W. Laws, et al. (James R. T. Laws, Lula G.
Dorman, and William E. Dorman)

to

1/3/1920

Walter R. Disharoon

EAT 98/335

William E. Dorman

to

12/18/1915

Cora W. Laws
Lula G. Dorman

WI-108
George W. Humphreys House
104 East William Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 4

EAT 98/333

George H. Dorman, Executor of
Malvina W. H. Seabrease

to

12/15/1915

William E. Dorman

\$7,000 Whereas by virtue of a power of sale in the
sixth item in the last will and testament of
Malvina W. H. Seabrease 4 April 1914
No. 209 LJG 2/259

Will Book
ELW 1/194

Last Will and Testament of
George W. Humphreys

to

Written
6/28/1887
Proved
2/25/1889

Item 1 I devise and bequeath to my daughter
Malvina Seabrease, wife of Thomas W.
Seabrease my house and lot in Salisbury
where I now reside, in fee simple

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Page 5

George W. Humphreys House
104 East William Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Somerset Land Record
LW 3/265

Thomas B. Robertson
Elizabeth Robertson

to

11/1/1854

George W. Humphreys
\$ 1350 "Corkland" which was conveyed to John Huston
father of said Elizabeth by deed dated
the 5 July 1810...and also that House
and Lot in Salisbury, Somerset County,
whereon the said George now resides,
which was conveyed to said Elizabeth
as Elizabeth Huston by William W.
Handy and Anne D. Handy....the 3 June
1831 and which was conveyed to said
William W. Handy by Joshua Brattan,
Sheriff of Somerset County, 28
November 1828
"Pemberton's Good Will"

GH 4/368

Joshua Brattan, Sheriff

to

11/24/1828

William W. Handy

1 ½ acre "Pemberton's Good Will" borders Dividing street
\$550 sold at public auction

WI-108
George W. Humphreys House
104 East William Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Somerset County	John Gould
Land Record	
JP 2/117	to

8/9/1814	Belitta Christopher
----------	---------------------

\$150 on Lott of ground marked number two in a plott made
by John Landreth, Esquire.....the aforesaid lot of ground
being at present occupied by a certain Elijah
Christopher

AND S. A. GILLIS AND SON, Wholesale and Retail
Gents' furnishing Goods, &c. No. 47 Main St.
dealers in Groceries, Provisions, Notions, Gilling-
tine, Wood and Willow-ware, Fishing Tackle,
ton and Manila Rope, Corn-meal, &c. No. 70
in Street.
HAYMAN, Dealer in Groceries, Tobacco,
tions and General Merchandise. No. 69 Main
cet.

Editors.

JEL MALONE, Editor of the "Salisbury
lvert"
BE litor and Publisher of the "Eastern
oren.

Fruit Dealer.

CATHELL, Dealer in, and Grower of Small
fruits. Salisbury, Md.

Hotel.

N TRACY, Proprietor of the "Peninsula Ho-
l," also of the "Atlantic Hotel," "Ocean City."

sale and Retail Dealer in Dressed Lumber, and
faced Boards, House-framing, Box-boards, Oak
Lumber suitable for Vessel Material, Gum, Wal-
nut, Oak and Cherry Hubs, Balusters, Newel Posts,
Fence Pickets, Post Caps, Flower Vases, Broom
Handles, Spinning Wheels, Pumps. Turning of
all Kinds and Styles of Wood and Iron a Specialty.
Wool carded from July 1st to October 31st. Also
Manufacturer of Flour, Meal and Feed Stuff. Wi-
comico Falls Mills, No. 2 Mill Street, Salisbury, Md.

Mills.

GEO. W. LEONARD, Farmer and Proprietor of
Saw and Grist Mill. Res. and mill $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles north
of Salisbury.
JOHN WILLIAMS, Farmer and Proprietor of
Saw and Grist Mill $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Salisbury.
GEO. H. W. BUARK, Farmer and Proprietor of
"Ruark Mills" 3 miles north of Salisbury. Res.
Salisbury.
M. A. PARSONS, Proprietor of S. S. Mill, $2\frac{1}{2}$
miles west of Salisbury on Wicomico River. Also
Proprietor of Marine Railway.

Physician.

Dr. F. M. SLEMONS, Physician and Surgeon.

SALISBURY

WICOMICO CO.

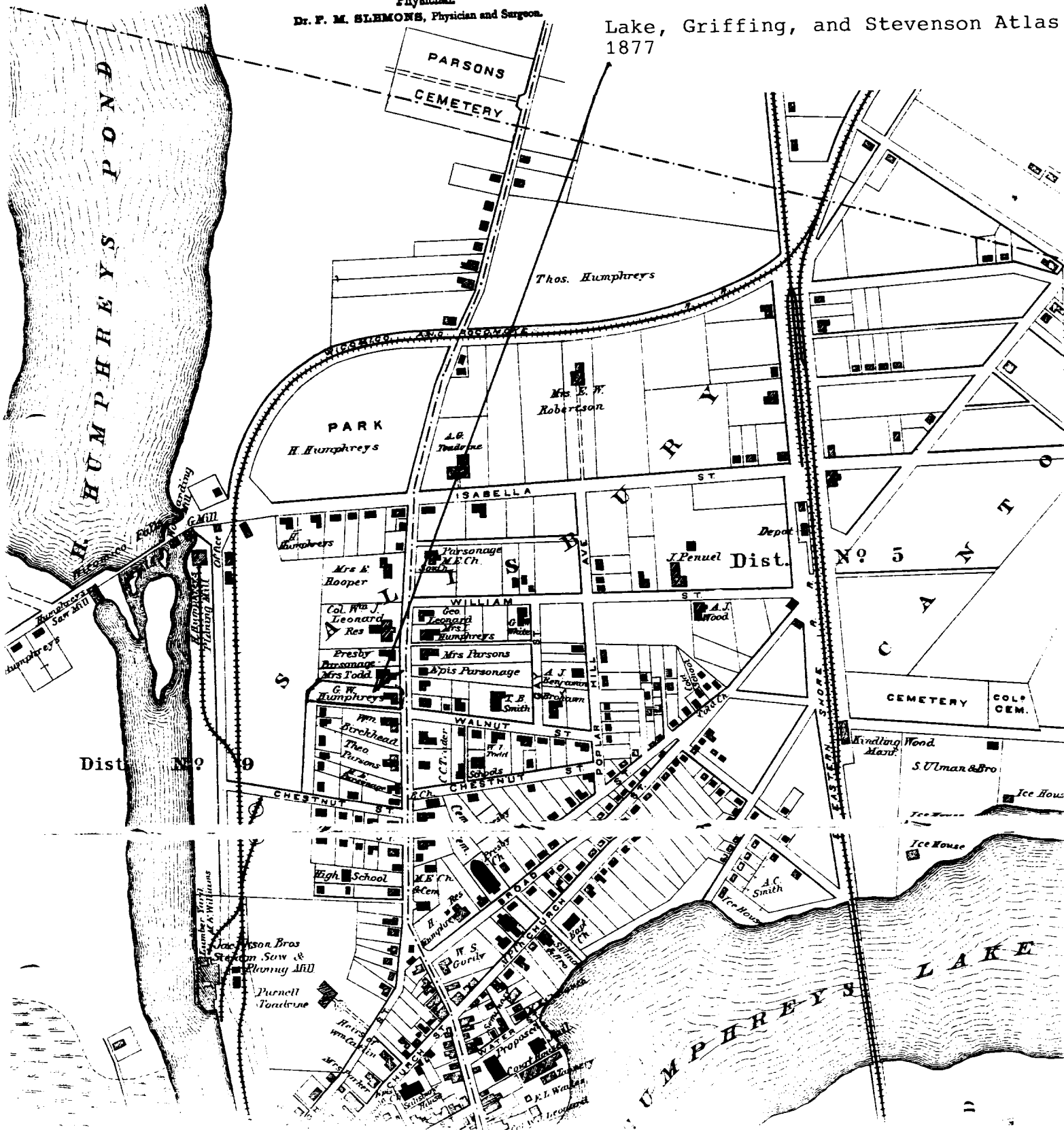
WI-108

Dists. Nos 95 & 8

~~WI-258~~ WI-108

George W. Humphreys House
Salisbury

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas
1877



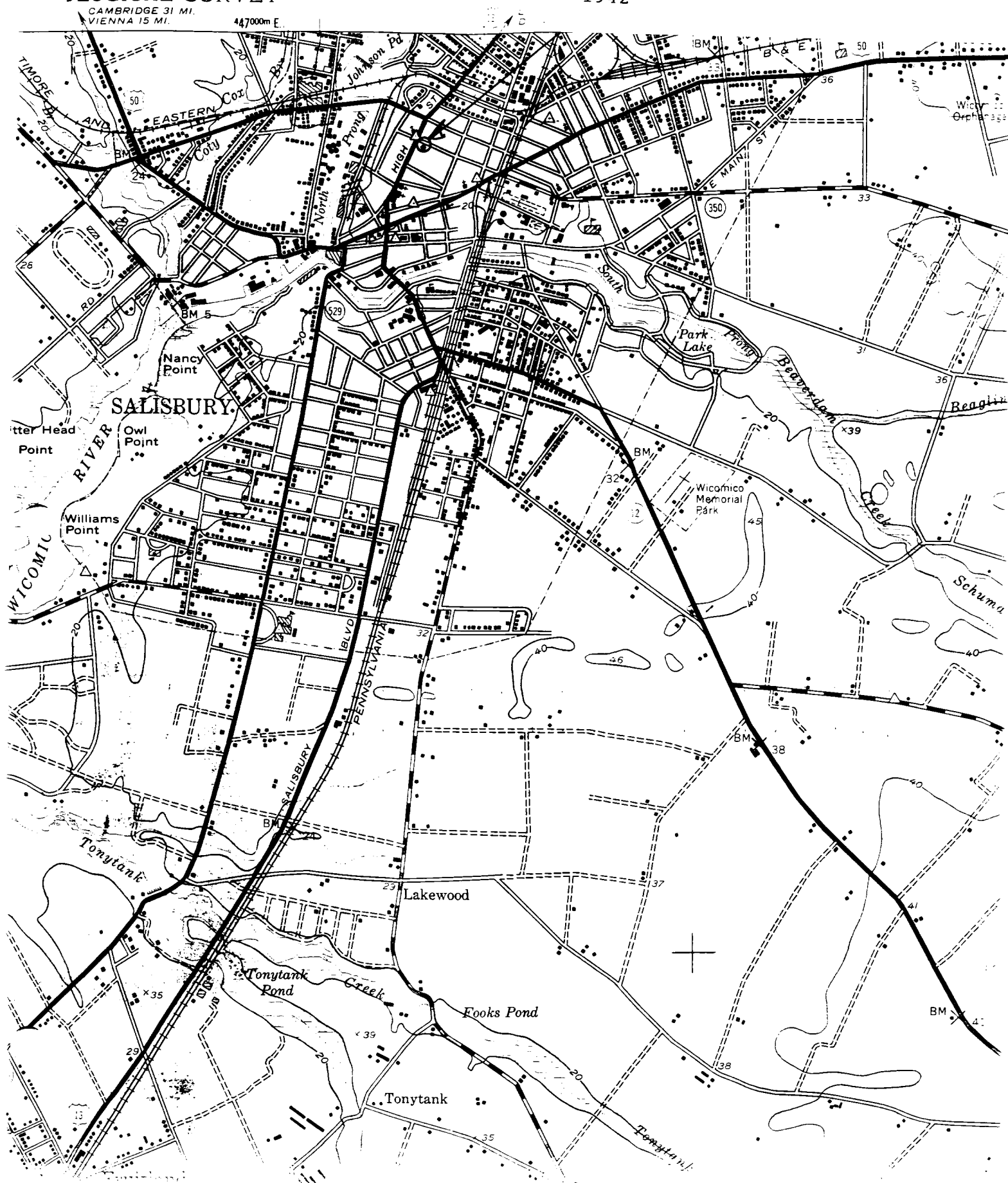
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

CAMBRIDGE 31 MI.
VIENNA 15 MI.

447000m E.

WI-108
George W. Humphreys House

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942





W1-108

GEORGE W. HUMPHREYS HOUSE

NORTH ELEVATION

11/97, Sam Tourant, Pictograph

NEG. / M.D. HISTORICAL TRUST

SALISBURY, Wicomico Co., MD